

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/717,293
Attorney Docket No. Q61931

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-47 are pending in the application. The rejection is respectfully submitted to be obviated in view of the remarks presented herein.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) - Applicants' Admitted Prior Art Figure 10

Claims 1, 26 and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Figure 10 of the instant application. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' claimed invention relates to a system and method of controlling packet transfer conducted by a plurality of logical channels between nodes. Transfer is executed by each logical channel based on an order of transfer. The order of transfer is included among information regarding transfer by each logical channel, which is recorded in a descriptor.

Turning to the cited art, Applicants' Figure 10, as described in the Description of the Related Art section of Applicants' specification, describes synchronous processing performed by a control device in which a logical channel is set up between the nodes by a management layer in charge of transfer control, and a descriptor which records information for transmission and reception is prepared for each packet transfer to activate a transmission and reception control circuit. "Although the descriptor is analyzed by a data link layer of the communication control device, packet transfer is conducted independently for each logical channel in a conventional device, so that logical channels are independent of each other" (page 1, lines 21-25). For transfer processing between a plurality of logical channels, a management layer realized by higher-order software monitors the end of packet transfer by such a waiting system as polling or interruption,

and causes another logical channel to activate transfer after receiving a notification of the end of transfer.

Examiner maintains that Applicants' Figure 10 teaches each feature of the claimed invention. However, in Applicants' Figure 10, transfer is confirmed by a higher-order management layer at every packet transfer and a lag time is generated in transferring a descriptor to the communication device in steps 1002 to 1003 (page 4, line 34 to page 5, line 2). Transmission of each packet generates overhead by requiring a higher-order management layer to transfer a descriptor to a communication device every time each packet is to be transferred and confirming the transfer after the transmission (page 5, lines 20-27). Applicants' Figure 10, as shown and described in the Description of the Related Art section of Applicants' specification, does not mention any order of transfer information recorded in the descriptor, whereby transfer is executed by each logical channel based on the order of transfer by each logical channel designated by the descriptor, as recited in claims 1, 26 and 42. Instead, in Figure 10, the management layer "transfers descriptors of the second packet and the third packet to the communication control device, the data link layer transfers the second pack by the logical channel number '2' (Step 1003) and then the third packet by the logical channel number '3' (Step 1004) and the management layer waits for confirmation of transfer of the two packets to confirm the transfer (Step 1005)" (page 4, lines 13-23). No order of transfer information is stored and used in the synchronous processing as shown in Figure 10. At least by virtue of the aforementioned differences, the invention defined by Applicants' claims 1, 26 and 42 are patentable over Figure 10 of the instant application. Applicants' claims 2-25, 27-41 and 43-47

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are dependent claims including all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 26 and 42, respectively, which, as established above, distinguishes over Figure 10 of the instant application. Therefore, claims 2-25, 27-41 and 43-47 are distinguished over Figure 10 of the instant application for at least the aforementioned reasons as well as for their additionally recited features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) are respectfully requested. In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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